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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAK #0369/01 0520908
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 210908Z FEB 07 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1030
INFO RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 2157

UNCLAS ANKARA 000369

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DEPT ISN/CTR FOR CARSON KUO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ETTC](#) [KNNP](#) [OTRA](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#)
SUBJECT: TURKEY COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR DHS/DNDO
SMITH + 1 (02/24/2007- 03/03/2007)

REF: STATE 19931

1. Embassy Ankara to Mr. Dave Smith
and will travel to Ankara and@fuclear Research Facility Q
February 24 to March 3, rol Officer is Kevin Lyon who can be contacted
via the IVG 295-2524 or Commercial (90)(312)455-5555 ext.2524
or through Embassy switchboard ext 0.

3. Local contact and lodging arrangements will be
sent/confirmed via separate coQmunication.

4. Visas: All Americans entering Turkey must have a valid
visa. Travelers without a visa can obtain a visa (valid for
one entry for three months at ports of entry upon payment of
a USD 20 fee payable in cash). There is no fee for official
travel if the visa is obtained outside of Turkey.

5. Health Safety: Information on vaccinations and other
health precautions can be obtained from the Center for
Disease Control and Prevention. The hotline for
international travelers (tel: 1- 877-394-8747), fax:
1-800-cdc-fax(1-800-232-3299), or via their internet site at:
[HTTP://WWW.CSC.GO](http://WWW.CSC.GO).

6. Security Assessment: In light of ongoing military
operations in Iraq and continued operations in support of the
war on terrorism, there remains the potential for both
transnational and indigenous terrorist groups with
anti-Western sympathies, to include Kongra Gel (formerly
PKK), Revolutionary People's Liberation/Front (DHKP/C),
Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (MLKP) Turkish Communist
Party/Marxist Leninist (TKP/ML), Turkish Workers and Peasants
Revolutionary Army (TIKKO) and Islamic Greater Eastern
Raiders/Front (IBDA/C) continue to operate in Turkey.

Attacks over the last few years, attributed to these groups,
have occurred in the Aegean and Mediterranean coastal resort
areas, as well as in Istanbul. In Istanbul, most of the
attacks, generally small-scale bombings, have occurred in
neighborhoods not generally frequented by official Americans
or tourists. Also in 2005 and 2006 public buses have been
set on fire, with the most recent incident resulting in three
deaths. Thus far, these attacks on buses also have taken
place in areas of Istanbul distant from official American or
tourist destinations.

The Kurdish Freedom Falcons (TAK), a group ostensibly aligned
with the PKK terrorists, claimed responsibility for many of
the incidents noted above, and in April 2006 this group
issued a statement renewing a threat to target Turkey,s
tourism industry. The most recent incidents claimed by this
group occurred in summer 2006 and included explosions in the
town of Manavgat (Antalya Province), Marmaris, and in the
city of Antalya. Both Turkish and foreign citizens were
injured and killed.

Violent demonstrations have occurred throughout Turkey, the
most recent in Istanbul and in several cities in Southeastern
Turkey. Just as with members of Mission Turkey, USG visitors
are required to obtain RSO Ankara and DCM approval for travel
to the Southeast

Al-Qa'ida threats to target U.S. facilities in Turkey have
been public knowledge for some time. On November 15, 2003,
two synagogues in Istanbul were the targets of suicide truck
bombs. On November 20, 2003, the British Consulate General
and the London based HSBC Bank in Istanbul were struck by
powerful explosions, killing dozens and wounding hundreds.
Though prosecutions of those responsible are still ongoing,

indications are that the Al-Qa'ida network supported the indigenous radical Islamic terrorist group responsible. The August 2005 discovery in Antalya of a potential plot against maritime interests and subsequent arrest of a Syrian Al-Qa'ida facilitator and planner further attest to the ongoing transnational threat.

The incidence of crime, both violent and the more traditional tourists crimes (pick pocketing, purse-snatching, etc.), is relatively low throughout Turkey. However, over the last year, there has been a marked increase in the number of crimes reported to Consulate General Istanbul. Much of the crime is centered in the areas frequented by tourists, Consulate employees and official visitors. Visitors should be particularly attentive for pick pockets in and around the Sultanahmet, Taksim Square, and Istiklal Caddesi areas of

Istanbul. Often pick pocketing is preceded by some sort of diversion, such as an argument or fight, or children asking to assist tourists, for example with their bags. If you encounter such activity, secure your wallet or purse and quickly leave the area. Another scam that is becoming more prevalent is that of a stranger approaching a visitor and striking up a conversation, which is continued inside a restaurant or club, at which point the visitor is robbed or persuaded to buy goods or services.

Useful security information available on the following Ankara: [HTTP://WWW.UQEMB-ANKARA.ORG.TR](http://WWW.UQEMB-ANKARA.ORG.TR) (Click on Security Matters)

--Consulate General Istanbul:
[HTTP://WWW.USCONSULATE-ISTANBUL.ORG.TR](http://WWW.USCONSULATE-ISTANBUL.ORG.TR)

17. For further information regarding travel in Turkey, consult the Consular information sheet. The Consular information sheet and public announcements are available on the internet at: [HTTP://TRAVEL.STATE.GOV](http://TRAVEL.STATE.GOV)

Other information is available on the following websites:

--The State Department Consular Affairs (CA) website:
[HTTP://WWW.TRAVEL.STATE.GOV/TURKEY.HTML](http://WWW.TRAVEL.STATE.GOV/TURKEY.HTML)

--Turkish Daily News (English Language Turkish newspaper):
[HTTP://WWW.TURKISHDAILYNEWS.COM](http://WWW.TURKISHDAILYNEWS.COM)

--Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [HTTP://WWW.MFA.GOV.TR](http://WWW.MFA.GOV.TR)

--The Republic of Turkey Home Page:
[HTTP://WWW.TURKEY/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.TURKEY/INDEX.HTML)

--Weather for Turkey:
[HTTP://WWW.WUNDERGROUND.COM/GLOBAL/TU.HTML](http://WWW.WUNDERGROUND.COM/GLOBAL/TU.HTML)

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

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